

MARINES SCUTTLEBUTT



> Little Robot, Big Job

Featherweight Friend Joins EOD Team

And in this corner, weighing in at 100 pounds and only two feet tall, is the Vanguard MKII.

It may not be the tallest or the strongest, but it can definitely help win the fight – the fight for life, that is.

The remote control battery operated robot, deployed with explosive ordnance disposal units, can climb stairs or inclines up to 45 degrees, turn on a dime and provide much needed eyes-on-target from its three day-or-night capable zoom cameras. Able to lift up to 35 pounds, slide under vehicles and traverse rough

terrain, the robot can go safely where others can't.

The MKII is a welcome member to the team, since during threats and tactical and surveillance missions, it can save lives by giving Marines closer looks at a suspicious packages or tough situations from safe distances. **M**



In 2005, going postal will take on a new meaning — for the Marine Corps, anyway. This year, Marine legends will adorn the United States Postal Service's "Distinguished Marines" stamp series.

Depicted on the stamps are Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, the Corps' 13th commandant and initiator of the Marine Corps Birthday celebration; Lt. Gen.

Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, staple of Marine Corps history and veteran of the Korean War and four WW II campaigns; Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive the Purple Heart, Navy Cross and Medal of Honor; and Sgt. Daniel J. Daly, one of only two Marines ever to earn two distinct Medals of Honor.

The portraits of these legends can now accompany letters from home to Marines who are carrying on the same traditions of honor, courage and commitment around the world.

To learn more about these Marine Corps legends, visit www.marines.mil/history. **M**

▲ Marines Go Postal

Heroes Get Stamp of Approval

▼ Cold as Ice

Marines Test NASCAR Technology in Iraq

Marines will do just about anything to be comfortable in the field – including adopting technology developed for the racetrack. Marine tankers in Iraq's Al Anbar Province are testing Hydro-Cool shirts, a new piece of equipment originally designed to keep NASCAR

and crewmen, causing heat-related illnesses.

Hydro-Cool shirts combat those conditions by helping keep core body temperatures at comfortable levels. They are made of a compression base-layer material that uses moisture management technology. Known as wicking,

packs. The individual packs are flexible, allowing the body a full range of motion. They are encased in tear resistant material and slide into the vest pockets. The packs can also be heated for use in cooler weather.

Marines of C Company, 2nd Tank Battalion used the Hydro-Cool system during Operation Al Fajr in Fallujah and continue to use them during their daily operations in the 1st Marine Division's area of operations.

Recommendations from the tank battalion have led to the development of a long sleeve version of the shirt with new hot and cold packs that can be adjusted so the shirts will be more comfortable under flak jackets.

Future use of the Hydro-Cool shirts will not be limited to tankers. They may be helpful to Marines in any military occupational specialty, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fultz, assistant chief of staff for Assessments and New Technologies, 1st Marine Division.

"To have the United States Marine Corps involved with the development of this brand new product is beyond my wildest dreams," said Michael Webb, founder and vice president of Hydro-Cool. "Our focus was originally the NASCAR driver and pit crews. To have a product that will be beneficial to the men and women of our armed forces is an amazing honor." **M**



drivers cool during their 500-mile races.

The insides of racecars and M-1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks can easily reach higher than 130 degrees. Temperatures that extreme can be debilitating to drivers

the process draws perspiration away from the skin, promoting rapid evaporation that cools the wearer during extreme work or activity.

These flame retardant garments are equipped with pockets that hold cold or heat

▼ Battlefield Cruisers

New Safety Kits Latest in Humvee Attire

Marines anxious to trick out their battlefield cruisers – and save their rears – may want to check out the latest in haute battle wear.

The Marine Armor Kit provides a complete package that can be installed by Marines or by contractors, and fits both the 2-door and 4-door humvee variants. The MAK uses a combination of rolled armor, steel and ballistic glass to protect the flanks, rear, underbody, gun turrets, air conditioner units, and side windows – the latter of which isn't included in the "up-armor" program.

Two kits are available, the 1,800-lb. kit with armor that can stop 17-grain fragments (shrapnel about the size of a dime) and the 3,400-lb. kit with increased protection to stop 44-grain fragments (about the size of a fifty-cent piece). Installation and fielding to the deployed operational forces may take up to 18 months. **M**



▼ Executive Support

Luxury Jet Flies the 'Warrior' Skies

Although Marines traditionally forgo luxury to maintain a warrior status, in at least one area the Corps can enjoy the best of both worlds.

The UC-35C Cessna Citation 560 Ultra Operational Support Aircraft, currently based in Qatar and flown by Marine Transport Squadron Detachments from New Orleans and Andrews Air Force Base, Md., is a twin-engine corporate workhorse for the Corps. In concert with the C130, the UC-35 fits the need

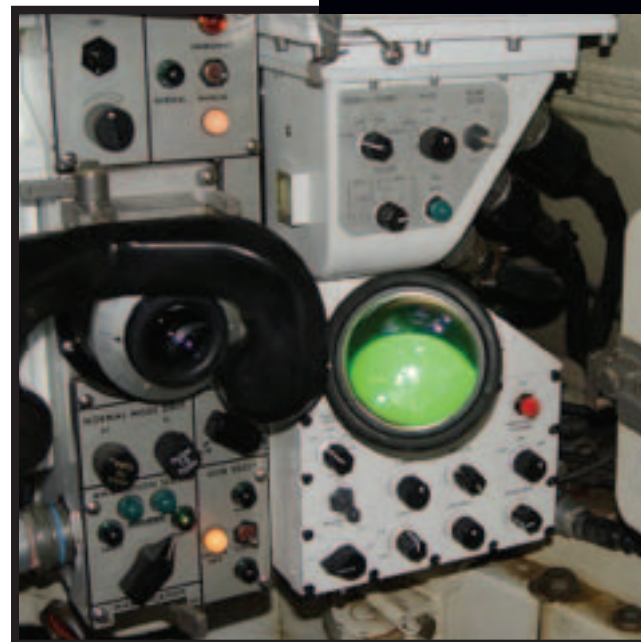
for air support for small groups of warriors, VIPs and staff personnel. Supporting OIF, OEF, the Horn of Africa and Europe, the UC-35 can fly its two pilots and up to eight passengers more than 1,000 miles at an altitude of 45,000 feet. Don't be misled by its simple luxuries, like swiveling leather seats, foldout tables and a "head," the Citation also provides an operational platform with encrypted satellite communications, a modem radio and flight phone.

Anyone can request the bird, regardless of rank, through an assault support request, staffed to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. And although the Citation has no fixed schedule, depending on space, seating may be available to your destination – if the change doesn't conflict with other missions that day. **M**



▼ 'Tanks' for the Upgrade

The Abrams Gets a Better Set of Eyes



Though eagles are renowned for their vision, they may soon be envious of the M-1A1 Abrams tank.

The Corps' tank fleet will soon be fitted with the Firepower Enhancement Program, allowing tank crews to reach out and touch the enemy up to 8,000 meters away. This is farther away than the enemy can touch them – a good thing, no doubt.

The FEP works its magic by combining the power of thermal sights, laser rangefinders, the Global Positioning System and navigation equipment with a Far Target Locate function – giving the tank crew an accurate target location within two seconds. Plus, the advanced optics let the tanks "see" their targets day or night, through smoke, fog or dust – something else an eagle might envy. **M**

SHORT COUNT

22 – Contracts made by Pfc. Stephanie Twichell as a recruiter's assistant in Harahan, La. Twichell was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for her efforts.

850,000 – Dollars spent on the construction of the Marine Corps War Memorial – all donated.

32 – Gallons of water the canteens of the Marines on the Marine Corps War Memorial would hold if they were real.

3.5 – Percent pay increase received by service members across the board under the

2005 Defense Appropriations Bill. This is the first time in five years that there are no targeted raises.

1916 – USS Henderson launched as the first ship designed for the specific needs of the Marine Corps.

1,050 – Distance in yards of the longest confirmed kill in Iraq by a Marine sniper – Sgt. Herbert B. Hancock, Nov. 11, 2004.

75 – Percentage of casualties suffered by Easy Company, 28th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division during the battle of Iwo Jima. The anniversary of the battle is Feb. 19.

15 – Approximate time in minutes it takes to give a vial of blood and be entered into the bone marrow donor registry.

83,000 – Storage areas on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., including storage bins in warehouses and storage in vacant lots.

16 – Maximum number of years a Marine may have in service and still receive a selective re-enlistment bonus – up from 14 in past years – thanks to the 2005 Defense Appropriations Bill.

4,000 – Degrees in Fahrenheit of the heat expelled by thermite grenades used to destroy enemy equipment.

13,500 – Pounds of supplies collected by Operation Spirit of America from American hospitals so Iraqis can provide quality health care to their citizens. The supplies were distributed by 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines in the Babil Province of Iraq.

23,200 – The number of killed, missing or wounded in action during the World War II battle for Iwo Jima.

32,000 – Dollars is the cost of the AGM-45 Shrike Missile, an Antiradiation missile that homes in on hostile anti-aircraft radars.